

TRIBUTE TO SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF JOHN McMAHON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 2021*

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheriff-Coroner John McMahon of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department in California's 8th Congressional District. Sheriff McMahon has served as a law enforcement officer in San Bernardino County for the past 36 years. He began his career in 1985 as a patrol deputy at the Needles station in California's 8th District and has been promoted to every rank in the department since then, serving at a total of 15 stations during his career. In 2014, John was elected as the 35th Sheriff-Coroner of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, and his leadership has been an invaluable asset to our law enforcement community.

During his tenure, Sheriff McMahon successfully led the department through many challenging times and high-profile incidents, including the December 2nd terror attack in San Bernardino. Long-term solutions implemented by his department have helped to keep crime down in our communities and improve safety across the largest county in our state. Under his leadership, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department has become known as one of the premier law enforcement agencies in the nation. I wish Sheriff McMahon and his wife Shelly all the best as he begins his retirement and I thank him for his dedication to serving the people of San Bernardino County.

THANKING ANDREW LOFTON FOR A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON RETIREMENT

### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 2021*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Lofton's outstanding career with the Seattle Housing Authority and congratulate him on a well-earned retirement after nearly five decades in public service.

Over the course of his astonishing career, Mr. Lofton held a variety of titles including Chief of Staff to Mayor Norm Rice, Budget Director of the City of Seattle, Chief of Departmental Operations for the City of Seattle, and most recently, the Executive Director of Seattle Housing Authority.

The positive impact Andrew has made on his community cannot be stressed enough. Seattle is without a doubt better because of his hard work, dedication, and passion for developing affordable housing. Under his leadership as Executive Director, the Seattle Housing Authority grew by over 1,500 units making a world of difference for over 3,000 children and adults. He grew the Seattle Housing Authority to the largest it has ever been, serving over 37,000 Seattle residents in over 8,400 units.

In a career full of achievements, one that stands out is his role in organizing and leading the community of Moving to Work Housing Authorities and serving as the first President of the Moving to Work Collaborative. This work was absolutely critical in piloting a new approach to more effectively and efficiently using Federal housing resources to serve low income communities. Moving to Work agencies assist families with children where the head of the household is seeking work or participating in a workforce development program. Not only do they help these families become economically stable, but they also increase housing choices for low-income families. Because of Andrew's dedication, these programs remain successful in Washington and across the country.

Andrew was also pivotal in the Community Moves to Opportunity initiative. This partnership between Seattle Housing Authority, King County Housing Authority, and Raj Chetty's Opportunity Insights research team at Harvard paved the way to broaden geographic choice and access to opportunity neighborhoods for low-income families. This work has been foundational for new national mobility efforts funded by Congress and currently being rolled out by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Andrew Lofton on a distinguished career. The State of Washington is lucky to have had him working for its people and after 47 years of service he always worked with grace, a generosity of spirit, and a never-failing sense of humor.

### RECOGNIZING POLICE CHIEF MATT BURNS

### HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 2021*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Police Chief Matt Burns for his 25 years of service with the Sioux Falls Police Department.

Chief Burns' career with the Sioux Falls Police Department began in 1996 as a patrol officer. He later went on to serve as a SWAT team member, detective, lieutenant, and assistant chief. In 2015, Burns became chief of police.

During his honorable career, Burns has spearheaded several key initiatives including promoting, designing, and funding the New Public Safety Training Center and leading the effort to host remote Basic Certification Academy classes.

Despite the many challenges the city of Sioux Falls has faced in recent years, I am grateful for Burns' leadership in keeping the community of Sioux Falls safe.

I commend Chief Burns for his outstanding record of service, hard work, and leadership. I extend my deepest congratulations to him on his well-earned retirement.

IN HONOR OF NICKI CLARKE FOR HER 14 YEARS OF SERVICE AT CAPITOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS IN CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

### HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 2021*

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere gratitude for Nicki Clarke as she moves on after fourteen years from her role as Executive Director of the Capitol Center for the Arts.

Over the span of Nicki's long and successful career, she has built a lasting memory as a leader and advocate for the arts in New Hampshire. Nicki has brought numerous rich and diverse art experiences to Granite Staters. Her leadership over the past fourteen years has been dynamic, innovative, and focused as she increased the number of shows and created the Bank of New Hampshire Stage. Her commitment to the theater and the community has touched the lives of so many in New Hampshire.

On behalf of New Hampshire's Second Congressional District and all those who have benefitted from Nicki's work, I thank her for her incredible service and congratulate her on all that she has accomplished. I wish her the best of luck in the years ahead, and I look forward to our continued work together to make New Hampshire an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF PATRICK HENRY COLLEGE

### HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 2021*

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great institution of higher education, Patrick Henry College, on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

Through a commitment to high academic rigor, a fidelity to the spirit of the American founding, and an unwavering worldview grounded in biblical principles, Patrick Henry College has attracted excellent students from all 50 states and distinguished itself by forming alumni marked by their grace, humility, and wisdom.

Since its founding in 2000, Patrick Henry College has placed graduates in the White House and as clerks for four U.S. Supreme Court justices. Many alumni can be found leading in various roles of public service and helping to make our country and the world a better place.

It has captured 12 national moot court championships, the Nelson Mandela world championship, and last year was crowned national civic debate champion.

The United States of America is a better place because of the work of its alumni in the public square. I want to honor Michael Farris for having the vision and determination to plant Patrick Henry College for the purpose of educating future leaders and equipping them to have a strong Christian influence in their communities and the culture at large. I am

confident that President Jack Haye and Dean Mark Mitchell will continue to lead Patrick Henry College with integrity and a steadfast commitment to faith and reason.

And I thank those alumni from my home state of Tennessee—Philip Bunn, Candace Curet, Jon De Troye, Noah Farley, Kayla Ferguson nee Griesemer, Jae Jared, Andrew Luchuk, Will McManus, Nathan Mingus, Shane Roberts, Justine Van Ness, and Timothy Wier.

Patrick Henry College has proven its worth over the past two decades, and I look forward to seeing this institution continue its work of forming young men and women of exemplary character and intellect for many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF AYA'S  
SWEETS

**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 2021*

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the culmination of hard work and dedication by Aya Islam and her family that has resulted in the grand opening of Aya's Sweets, a shop and bakery in the Dearborn Heights community in Michigan's 13th Congressional District.

Small businesses are the life blood of our economy, contributing to local economies and fostering a sense of community. But, what truly makes the grand opening of Aya's Sweets shine is that it is the realization of a dream. Aya, at the age of sixteen, and with the support of her family, has committed so much of herself into seeing this business succeed.

Mostly self-taught, Aya began baking at the age of nine by watching cooking videos and shows. She has never shied away from a challenge. As she honed her skills, she earned a reputation for her beautiful and tasty creations, and has taken the step of opening her own bakery.

Please join me in recognizing and celebrating Aya and the Islam Family on the occasion of the grand opening of Aya's Sweets. We wish them many years of success in service to our neighbors in Michigan's #13th District Strong.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR DAVID  
CARETTO ON THE OCCASION OF  
HIS RETIREMENT AS THE  
MAYOR OF BIG BEAR LAKE

**HON. JAY OBERNOLTE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 2021*

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor David Caretto, a constituent of my district and Mayor of my hometown of Big Bear Lake, California. Mayor Carreto served Big Bear Lake for eleven years, but he was a public servant long before that, serving Southern California for thirty-three years as General Manager and Secretary for the South Orange County Wastewater Authority, Assistant City Manager and City Clerk for the City of Irwindale, Assistant

City Manager and City Clerk for the City of Pico Rivera, City Manager and Assistant City Manager for the City of Signal Hill, and Planning Technician for the City of Lynwood. In addition to his own public service, David and his wife Cindy raised two talented children, both of whom proudly served their country in the Iraq War.

I was honored to serve alongside David on the Big Bear Lake City Council, and I can relate from firsthand experience how impactful his continuous dedication to our community has been. I wish him and Cindy all the best in his retirement as they enter the next phase of their life. Thankyou very much, Dave, for your service to the City of Big Bear Lake.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
MAJOR GENERAL PETER B.  
ANDRYSIK JR.

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 2021*

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, I am deeply honored to express my gratitude to Major General Peter B. Andrysiak Jr. for his years of dedicated service to the United States of America, the Army, and the great state of Alaska.

As the Commanding General of United States Army Alaska (USARAK) and Deputy Commanding General of the Alaskan Command, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, he is responsible for providing trained and ready forces to support worldwide unified land operations and operations in the United States Indo-Pacific Command Area of Operations and the Arctic Region and conduct military operations in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

Additionally, General Andrysiak has become a leader for the U.S. Army in the Arctic. In 1935, Brigadier General Billy Mitchell stated, "I believe that in the future, whoever holds Alaska will hold the world. I think it is the most important strategic place in the world." In the over 85 years since that statement, we have seen military leaders who understood it and many who ignored it. General Andrysiak is clearly the former. His Arctic leadership was not only critical to reshaping the Army's vision of the Arctic but was also crucial in the development of the Army's Arctic Strategy and the modernization of the Army's operations in Arctic environments.

Since pinning on his Second Lieutenant bars following his graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, General Andrysiak has exemplified what it means to be an American soldier. He is, however, more than the military tactical and operational expertise that he has demonstrated through his career. General Andrysiak has endeared himself to the soldiers and their families under his charge. For he has become a tireless advocate for their quality of life and wellbeing. From investments and improvements to facilities such as Child Development Centers, barracks, and gyms, to leadership engagement and mental health support, General Andrysiak understands that there is more to a soldier's readiness than squeezing a trigger and field maneuvers. There is mental, spiritual, physical, and family readiness that must be addressed as well.

On February 23, 2021, the Chief of Staff of the Army, General James McConville, announced that General Andrysiak will become the Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Europe-Africa. While I am saddened to see him leave Alaska, I am proud that he will continue serving as a sentinel for our Nation.

REMEMBERING JOHN D. LEONARD  
SR.

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 2021*

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John D. Leonard Sr. of Girard, Ohio who passed away peacefully Monday, July 5, 2021 at the age of 80 surrounded by his loving family.

John was born Oct. 13, 1940, in Niles, a son to Joseph and Kathryn McMenamy Leonard. He was a 1958 graduate of Niles McKinley High School. He worked as a skilled tradesman for both the union and then Packard Electric, retiring in 2008. John was a parishioner of St. Rose Church and was a member of the Knights of Columbus in Girard.

John was a pillar to his family. He was a selfless provider always ensuring the prosperity of his children and grandchildren. Just as he sang along to Louise's piano performances, uplifting her tunes, John would always uplift those around him, supporting friends and family unconditionally. His infectious smile and enthusiastic dancing reminds us how to live life. John's fundamental values of love, dedication, and community will forever guide his loved one's path towards happiness. We have lost a truly wonderful person who will forever be missed.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his children, Karla (Philip) Smith of Virginia, John D. (Suzana) Leonard Jr. of Shaker Heights and Bob (Danielle) Leonard of Rocky River; brothers, Joseph (MaryAnn), Thomas (Lucy), Paul (Charlotte), William (Mary Ann), Richard (Sandy) and Robert; sisters, Kathleen, Margaret Mary (David); close friend and companion, Nancy Foster; and his grandchildren, Audrey and Emma Smith, Daniel and Stefan Leonard, Andrew and Anna Leonard, Alex Sapp, Adam (Janice) and Hannah Smith. Besides his parents, John was preceded in death by his wife, Louise Leonard, whom he married Aug. 18, 1962, and who passed away Feb. 2, 2015; and a brother, Jerry.

John was the uncle to my longtime District Director and childhood friend, Rick Leonard. John truly embodied the spirit of the Democratic Party through his lifetime of integrity and kindness and was all around a wonderful person to be around. My condolences go out to all whose lives he touched.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL  
MIRRA ON HIS RETIREMENT AND  
THANKING HIM FOR SERVING  
HIS COMMUNITY

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 13, 2021*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Michael Mirra